SLC-10002/29 10116sc

I claim:

- 1. A method for providing information related to metered usage of an
- 2 electronic or digital service consumed by a user, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving data relating to the metered usage of the consumed service;
- 4 rating the metered usage based on the received data;
 - generating information based on the rated metered usage; and
- 6 providing the information via a communication link to a destination location within a close time proximity to the actual consumption of the service.
 - 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising a final step of providing the
- 2 information to a billing application.
- 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising a final step of displaying the
- 2 information on a display device.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the display device further comprises a
- 2 wireless communication device.
 - 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the display device further comprises a
- 2 computer.
 - 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating information further
- 2 comprises continuously updating the information as the units of service are consumed.

- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the generated information further 2 comprises an amount owed for consumed service such that the amount owed relates to the metered consumed units and the assessed rate.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the generated information further comprises a quote related to consumption of service.
- 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of providing a message2 notifying a user of an event.
- 10. A method for providing timely information related to usage of an Internet service, the method comprising the steps of:

providing measured units of Internet service to one or more users;

- 4 tallying the measured units of Internet service provided to one or more users as the measured units of Internet service are consumed by one or more users;
- assessing a rate per measured unit of Internet service consumed by one or more users as the measured units are tallied;
- 8 calculating a price associated with the consumed measured units of Internet service by multiplying the tally of measured units of Internet service with the assessed
- 10 rate; and

forwarding, within a close time proximity to the consumption of the measured units of Internet service by one or more users, information via a communication link to a designated location, where the information includes at least one of the tally of the measured unit of Internet service, the assessed rated, and the calculated price.

- 11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising an initial step of accessing, by one or more users, a connection device connected to the Internet.
- 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the connection device furthercomprises a display device.
- 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the display device further 2 comprises a telephone.
- 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the telephone utilizes wireless 2 technology.
- 15. The method according to claim 11, further comprising a final step of displaying the forwarded information on the display device accessed by the user.

- 16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the forwarded information
 2 further comprises the tally, the assessed rate, and the calculated price associated with the consumed measured units of Internet service.
- 17. The method according to claim 10, wherein the communication link 2 further comprises the Internet.
- 18. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of purchasing the Internet service prior to providing measured units of Internet service to one or more users.
- 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the forwarded information
 2 further comprises data relating to the purchased Internet service not yet consumed.
- 20. The method according to claim 10, wherein the forwarded information further comprising identification of one or more of the users of the Internet services.
- The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of estimating
 an expense associated with a particular Internet service prior to consumption of the particular Internet service.

SLC-10002/29 10116sc

1

- 22. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of requesting
- 2 payment of the calculated price for consumed Internet services.
 - 23. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of collecting
- 2 the calculated price for consumed Internet services.
 - 24. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of
- 2 discounting the calculated price according to a predetermined criterion.